

The office of Victim Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and age in the delivery of services.

WHO CAN REQUEST DIALOGUE?

Only a victim or survivor can initiate a dialogue. However, the offender must agree to participate in the program.

Victim/Offender Dialogue is not appropriate for cases of family violence or familial sexual abuse.

PAROLE BOARD DISCLOSURE

The victim offender dialogue process cannot be used by offenders in an attempt to obtain an early release from prison or supervision. Participation will not be noted in any of the offender's files. The Kansas Parole Board will not be informed of program participation and all records pertaining to participation will be kept separate from any information provided to the Kansas Parole Board.

If you are the victim of crime or a homicide survivor and are interested in meeting with or contacting the offender who committed the crime against you, contact the Assistant Director of Victim Services at (785) 817-2594 or toll free at 1-866-404-6732.

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Crime Victims' Compensation Board (785) 296-2359

Kansas Crisis Hotline (888) 363-2287

MADD State Victims' Services (800) 443-6233

Sexual Violence Resources (877) 739-3895

Victims' Rights Program—Kansas Attorney General's Office (785) 291-3690

*****Periodically we have organizations request victim/survivor speakers and/or victim/survivor speaker for Victim Impact Classes with offenders. If either of these opportunities sound like something that interests you please contact us for more information.**



Office of Victim Services
Kansas Department of Corrections
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson, Suite 400-N
Topeka, KS 66612-1284
Toll-free 1-866-404-6732
www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services

If you have any concerns/complaints about the services you received, please contact the Director of Victim Services at 785-296-7429 or jenniew@kdoc.ks.gov.

Updated January 2011

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Office of Victim Services

Victim/Offender Dialogue Program



"Giving Kansas crime victims a voice in corrections by providing information, services and support with compassion and respect"

VICTIM/ OFFENDER DIALOGUE

Victim/Offender Dialogue is a program that provides an opportunity for eligible victims or survivors of severe violence to meet with an offender face-to-face in a safe and structured setting with the assistance of a trained facilitator.

Because Victim/Offender Dialogue is not for everyone, each case is carefully reviewed by the Director of the Office of Victim Services before proceeding.

WHY CHOOSE DIALOGUE?

Crime victims or survivors may want to meet with the offender for different reasons. Dialogue may provide an opportunity to:

- Get more information about a loved one who was killed.
- Tell the offender about their loved one.
- Let the offender know what the impact of the crime has had on their life.
- Find out what the offender's life has been like inside the facility.
- Forgive the offender.

Dialogue may also offer an offender the opportunity to apologize and express remorse as well as make amends by answering questions.

DIALOGUE PREPARATION

Preparation for a Victim/Offender dialogue is a slow and carefully planned process. There is no set time limit and it can take anywhere from several months to several years before an actual meeting takes place.

You are encouraged to have a support person with you throughout the preparation process.

Facilitator/Victim Meeting

The facilitator will meet with you and your support person at your location to discuss the crime, the impact it has had on your life and help you define your goal for the dialogue.

Facilitator/Offender Meeting

The facilitator will then meet with the offender at the correctional facility. The offender must be willing to participate and take responsibility for their crime before being considered for the program.

The offender will also be encouraged to have a support person present. Support persons selected may be neither inmates nor offenders under post release supervision.

Additional Meetings

The facilitator will meet individually with both parties a minimum of one more time before the dialogue takes place.

The victim or survivor, the offender, or the facilitator may stop the process at any time.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Before a face-to-face meeting is scheduled, you must agree to comply with the following:

Sign a waiver to release the Kansas Department of Corrections from any liability.

Provide information to the Kansas Department of Corrections to conduct a background search.

THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Your face-to-face meeting with the offender will take place in the correctional facility where he/she is housed.

You will be offered the opportunity to tour the facility before your face-to-face meeting is scheduled.

All parties will be searched upon entering the facility and a correctional officer will be positioned immediately outside of the meeting room for your safety.

There is no cost to participate in the program; however you will be responsible for your own expenses when traveling to the facility for a tour or the face-to-face meeting.

FOLLOW UP

The facilitator will attempt to follow up by phone or in person with both participants after the dialogue meeting. Further follow up will be attempted approximately three months after the dialogue session.

**If you have questions,
we encourage you to call us.**

Toll Free 1-866-404-6732